

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, SEPT. 14, 2012
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR SEPT. 14, 2012

FRIDAY REPORT



1. **Closed Session** – I have scheduled a Closed Session for the City Council to consider two matters: a tentative contract settlement with Local 1225 (Firefighters union) and a potential purchase of real estate. The Closed Session will begin at 5 p.m. Sept. 19 in the Community Room.
2. **Planning Commission Update** – On a vote of 9-0, the Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval of the 232-unit Southdale Apartment project at its Sept. 12 meeting. The City Council will consider the request on Oct. 16.

The Planning Commission also reviewed a sketch plan of an up-scale restaurant at the northeast corner of the 17-acre property at 7700 France Avenue. A restaurant is not an allowed use in this Office Zoning District. A PUD rezoning was discussed as a possibility to allow this type of use. The Council will consider this sketch plan idea on Oct. 16.

3. **Water Bills** – During the next few weeks, the first water bills that are computed with the new water meters will be mailed to water customers. Because the new water meters are now metering all water consumed by customers, it's quite possible that some customers (the ones who previously had inaccurate meters) will receive bills that are substantially higher than they are accustomed to. Staff has begun the process of communicating this message to water customers. It's important that Council Members be in the loop on this issue as well because you may receive calls.
4. **Top Shooter** – Officer Brandon Kuske, a seven-year veteran of the Police Department, walked away with a "Top Shooter" award from a regional pistol shooting competition in Rosemount on Aug. 24. More than 50 officers and FBI agents competed in the competition. Kuske is also a four-year veteran of the Edina SWAT team.
5. **Art Center Update** – Barbara La Vallée has been elected as the new chair of the Public Art Committee. Barbara will serve as chair beginning in October 2012. Barbara replaces outgoing chair Lois Ring.

Phil Johnson has announced that he will retire on Sept. 30. Phil has been the Manager of the Peggy Kelly Media Arts Studios.

6. **Safe Routes to School** – The Safe Routes to School consortium (Bloomington Health, school district representatives from Edina and Richfield, and city representatives from Edina, Richfield and Bloomington) met last week to review seven proposals that will create a Comprehensive Plan for Safe Routes to Schools for Edina and Richfield's school districts. Edina's representatives to the consortium are Katherine Bass, Valerie Burke and Wayne Houle. The group has a \$48,000 grant from SHIP to fund the planning process. The plan is expected to be completed by next May and includes a robust

public engagement program. This project will help the City identify infrastructure shortfalls that could be incorporated into the Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety initiative.

7. **50th & France Parking** – The City is working with Alliant Engineering to develop a schedule for designing the parking way-finding system for 50th & France. Alliant developed the dynamic way-finding systems for Mall of America and downtown Minneapolis. The process includes both internal and external stakeholder meetings within the next few weeks to help define the system.
8. **Hennepin County Medical Waste Disposal Program** – The Hennepin County Medicine Disposal Program has expanded to three new locations: the District Courts in Brooklyn Center, Edina and Minnetonka. There are now six medicine drop boxes throughout the county, which are overseen by the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office: Hennepin County District Court Brookdale, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center; Hennepin County Library – Southdale, 7009 York Ave. S., Edina; Hennepin County District Court Ridgedale, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka; Hennepin County Sheriff’s Patrol Headquarters, 9401 83rd Ave. N., Brooklyn Park; Hennepin County Public Safety Facility, 401 4th Ave. S., Minneapolis; and Hennepin County Sheriff’s Water Patrol, 4141 Shoreline Drive, Spring Park. For more information, call Hennepin County Environmental Services at 612-348-3777, or visit www.hennepin.us/medicine.
9. **America’s Promise Recognition** – Edina has been named one of America’s Promise Alliance’s 100 Best Communities for Young People presented by ING. The national award is given to communities across the country that focus on reducing high school dropout rates and providing services and support to their youth, making the community an outstanding place for youth to live, learn and grow. Edina was recognized for its extensive network of community partnerships, including the Edina Public Schools, City of Edina, Edina Chamber of Commerce, the Edina Community Foundation’s Connecting with Kids program, and other local organizations. America’s Promise also noted Edina’s commitment in providing area youth with a variety of programs focused on community service and leadership that help them grow up to be well-rounded and civic-minded.

With the recognition, Edina will receive a \$2,500 grant to continue its outreach to local youth, signage identifying the community as one of the nation’s 100 Best Communities for Young People , and access to America’s Promise Alliance’s community development resources.